

a zoom lens with a plurality of zooming steps;

a choosing device that chooses a macro shooting mode for obtaining a close-up of a subject;

a driving device that moves the zoom lens to a predetermined zooming step that is between a telephoto end and a wide-angle end when the choosing device chooses the macro shooting mode; and

an aperture restricting device that changes an aperture according to the zooming steps so that when the aperture is at the predetermined zooming step that is between the telephoto end and the wide-angle end, the aperture is smaller than when the aperture is at the other zooming steps.

---

6. (Once Amended) A zoom lens device, comprising:

a zoom lens;

sectors operative to form an aperture; and

an aperture switching device that switches a size of the aperture of the sectors when the zoom lens is moved beyond one of a telephoto end and a wide-angle end.

---

8. (Once Amended) A zoom lens device comprising:

a zoom lens with a plurality of zooming steps;

means for choosing a macro shooting mode for obtaining a close-up of a subject;

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
U.S. Application No. 09/891,352

means for moving the zoom lens to a predetermined zooming step that is between a telephoto end and a wide-angle end when the choosing means chooses the macro shooting mode;

and

means for changing an aperture according to the zooming steps so that when the aperture is at the predetermined zooming step that is between a telephoto end and a wide-angle end, the aperture is smaller than when the aperture is at the other zooming steps.

---